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## Letter dated 19 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, following the return of Major-General Paul Rwarakabije, Commander of the Forces combattantes Abacunguzi (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 19 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

### Press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda

**Kigali, 18 November 2003**

The Government of Rwanda has for nine years been engaged in efforts to bring lasting peace to Rwanda and the region, following the 1994 genocide.

The peaceful return of Major-General Paul Rwarakabije, Commander of the Forces combattantes Abacunguzi (FOCA), along with other officers and men on Friday, 14 November 2003, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is an important step that reinforces our Government's efforts to unite and reconcile all Rwandan people. FOCA is the armed wing of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), also formerly and popularly known as the ex-FAR/Interahamwe.

Major-General Rwarakabije and his colleagues have acknowledged that the current social, economic and political developments prevailing in the country are a clear testimony of the progress made by the Rwandan people.

Major-General Rwarakabije, and all those who choose to return through peaceful means, will be resettled and integrated into Rwandan society. We welcome all those who seek to return home peacefully.

The extremists who have not heeded the call who choose to continue with armed conflict shall be dealt with forcefully and will face the full force of the law.

The Government of Rwanda calls upon the region and the rest of the international community to take up their responsibility and help bring these extremists-cum-genocidaires to justice.